sum provision for North East in BE 2005-2006. Funds are sanctioned on the basis of receipt of project proposals identified in consultation with the State Government.

Implementation of river-linking projects in Madhya Pradesh

†*299. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an important scheme related to linking of rivers of the country is under consideration of the Government;

(b) whether in the first phase a proposal of two projects is under consideration for Madhya Pradesh;

(c) whether the State Government of Madhya Pradesh has conveyed its consent to the Central Government for implementation of both the projects; and

(d) by when the work on both these projects is proposed to be commenced?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Water Resources (MOWR) (erstwhile Ministry of Irrigation) and Central Water Commission (CWC) formulated a National Perspective Plan (NPP) for Water Resources Development in 1980 envisaging interbasin transfer of water from surplus basins to deficit basins/areas which comprises of two components namely Himalayan Rivers Development Component and Peninsular Rivers Development Component. National Water Development Agency (NWDA) was set up under the MOWR in 1982 for carrying out various technical studies to establish the feasibility of the proposals of NPP and to give concrete shape to it. Based on various studies conducted, NWDA has identified 30 links for preparing Feasibility Reports(FRs). NWDA has completed feasibility reports for 14 links under Peninsular Rivers Development Component and two links under Himalayan Rivers Development Component. Two link porposal *viz.*Ken-Betwa concerning MP & UP and Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal concerning MP and Rajasthan

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

have been short listed as priority links for arriving at consensus for preparation of Detailed Projects of these links.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The implementation of these links would depend on how fast the consensus between concerned States is arrived at for preparation of the Detailed Project Reports (DPRs.)

Bilateral air traffic rights

*300. DR. KARAN SINGH:
DR T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to initiate talks with France, Germany, Hong Kong and China to enhance bilateral air traffic rights to meet growing consumer demand;

(b) if so, whether alongwith the related 'open sky' policy Government will liberalise bilaterals that have been done with the US and UK;

(c) if so, whether talks have already started with the other countries; and

(d) if so, by when, final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. Bilateral air services talks have been held with France, Hong Kong and China recently. Bilateral consultation with Germany are yet to be held.

(b) Our air services arrangements with both USA and UK have been liberalized recently. While a liberal open sky type of agreement has been initialled with USA, the existing agreement with UK is not an open sky one.

(c) and (d) Liberalization of international air services is an ongoing process. Bilateral talks are held with various countries to consider their request for enhancement of traffic rights as part of this ongoing process from time to time based on balance of benefit to our carriers, overall interests of national economy and diplomatic considerations.